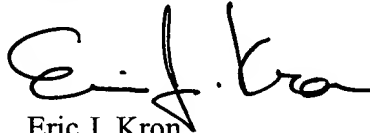


REMARKS

The specification has been amended to recite the complete chain of priority documents for the above-referenced application. A petition under 37 CFR §1.78(a)(3), a statement in support of this petition, and the appropriate petition fee are filed concurrently herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment into the specification. No new matter is added by way of this amendment.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required for consideration of this paper, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

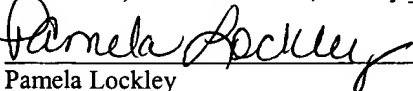


Eric J. Kron
Registration No. 45,941

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 23, 2003


Pamela Lockley

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS